WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method of processing image data of a color image for marking, the color image containing overmarked pixels where at least one first color is to be overmarked by a second color, the method comprising:

generating information that designates the overmarked pixels;

performing raster image processing to create a raster image of the color image, the raster image processing including overmarking processing that allows both the at least one first color and the second color to be included in the overmarked pixels in the raster image; and

modifying image data of the overmarked pixels in the raster image.

2. The method as set forth in claim 1, wherein modifying the image data of the overmarked pixels comprises modifying image data corresponding to the at least one first color.

3. The method as set forth in claim 1, further comprising outputting the raster image, including the modified image data, to a marking driver.

4. The method as set forth in claim 1, wherein modifying image data of the overmarked pixels comprises modifying a value of image data corresponding to the at least one first color.

5. The method as set forth in claim 4, wherein the modified value of the image data corresponding to the at least one first color results in a reduced amount of marking material corresponding to the at least one first color being applied to a marking substrate.

6. The method as set forth in claim 1, wherein generating information that designates the overmarked pixels comprises generating tags that correspond to the overmarked pixels.

7. The method as set forth in claim 6, wherein the overmarked pixels correspond to a black image and the tags indicate that the overmarked pixels are black image pixels.

8. The method as set forth in claim 6, wherein the overmarked pixels correspond to one of black text and a black stroke, and the tags indicate that the overmarked pixels are one of black text pixels and black stroke pixels.

9.   The method as set forth in claim 1, wherein generating information that designates the overmarked pixels comprises performing pattern recognition that recognizes specified patterns; and

designating pixels that form the recognized patterns as the overmarked pixels.

10.   A system that processes image data of a color image for marking, the color image containing overmarked pixels where at least one first color is to be overmarked by a second color, the system comprising:

an overmarked pixel designator that generates information that designates the overmarked pixels;

a raster image processor that creates a raster image of the color image, the raster image processor provided with an overmarking function that allows both the at least one first color and the second color to be included in the overmarked pixels of the raster image; and

an image data modification unit that modifies image data of the overmarked pixels in the raster image.

11.   The system as set forth in claim 10, wherein the modified image data is image data corresponding to the at least one first color.

12.   The system as set forth in claim 10, further comprising a marking driver that performs marking according to the raster image, including the modified image data.

13.   The system as set forth in claim 10, wherein the image data modification unit modifies a value of image data corresponding to the at least one first color.

14.   The system as set forth in claim 13, further comprising a marking driver that performs marking according to the raster image that includes the modified image data, wherein the marking driver marks a reduced amount of marking material corresponding to the at least one first color on a marking substrate based on the modified value of the image data corresponding to the at least one first color.

15.   The system as set forth in claim 10, wherein the overmarked pixel designator comprises a tag generator that generates tags that correspond to the overmarked pixels.

16. The system as set forth in claim 15, wherein the overmarked pixels correspond to a black image and the tags indicate that the overmarked pixels are black image pixels.

17. The system as set forth in claim 15, wherein the overmarked pixels correspond to one of black text and a black stroke, and the tags indicate that the overmarked pixels are one of black text pixels and black stroke pixels.

18. The system as set forth in claim 10, wherein the overmarked pixel designator comprises a pattern recognition device that recognizes specified patterns and designates pixels that form the recognized patterns as the overmarked pixels.

19. A printer incorporating the system as set forth in claim 10.

20. A digital copier incorporating the system as set forth in claim 10.

21. A storage medium on which is stored a program that implements the method set forth in claim 1.

22. A storage medium on which is stored data that has been processed according to the method set forth in claim 1.